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## DEPARTMENT OF NOTES, REVIEWS, ETC.

It is the purpose, in this department, to present from time to time brief original notes, both of methods of work and of results, by members of the Society. All members are invited to submit such items. In the absence of these there will be given a few brief abstracts of recent work of more general interest to students and teachers. There will be no attempt to make these abstracts exhaustive. They will illustrate progress without attempting to define it, and will thus give to the teacher current illustrations, and to the isolated student suggestions of suitable fields of investigation.—[Editor.]

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### NEW LIFE MEMBER.

The Secretary is pleased to announce that Mr. Seth Bunker Capp of Philadelphia has been elected to Life Membership in the American Microscopical Society. The Constitution provides that the 50 dollars dues of life members shall become a permanent part of the Spencer-Tolles Fund for the encouragement of microscopic research. Members can render a real service to the Society by bringing to the attention of people of means, who are interested in encouraging scientific work, this provision of the American Microscopical Society.

### ENTOMOLOGICAL NOTES.

*Hearing in Saturniidae*.—Turner ('14, Biological Bulletin, 27: 325-332) reports results of a study of the auditory powers of *Saturniidae*. From experiments on four species: *Telea polyphemus*, *Samia cecropia*, *Philosamia cynthia* and *Callosamia promethia*, the author finds evidence which seems to prove that all of these species hear. The last three species respond readily to a large range of sounds, but *Telea polyphemus* normally does not respond perceptibly to sounds. However if experimentally the moth is caused to associate some disagreeable experience with some sounds, it can be induced to respond to the latter. Responses are looked upon as expressions of emotion.

*Poison Glands*.—Kephart ('14, Journ. Parasitology, 1: 95-103) finds that the poisonous element of the hairs of the larvæ of the Brown-tail Moth which produces serious irritation to human skin is contained in the short barbed hairs. Specialized hypodermal cells secrete this substance, the latter gaining entrance to the blood

through the point of the hair when it comes in contact with the skin. There is a poison gland for each papilla on a tubercle but not one for each hair.

*Behavior of Insects and Spiders.*—Turner ('14, Journ. Animal Behavior, 4: 394-413) gives a summary of "The Literature for 1913 on the Behavior of Spiders and Insects other than Ants." The essential results of each paper are briefly discussed. At the end of the paper the literature for the year 1913, consisting of one hundred and twenty-six titles, is listed.

*Catocala Moths.*—Turner and Schwarz (Biological Bulletin, 27: 275-293) presents a paper on the "Auditory Powers of the *Catocala* Moths." An experimental field study on several species of the genus *Catocala* has shown that several of the species observed respond definitely to certain high pitched notes of the Galton whistle but usually fail to respond to sounds of low pitch. Degree of responsiveness differs in different species. Lack of response to sounds of low pitch is not attributed to failure to hear such sounds, but it is the opinion of the authors that these moths respond "only to such sounds as have a life significance."

*Olfactory Sense of Insects.*—McIndoo ('14, Smithsonian Misc. Coll., 63: No. 9) presents evidence against the old view that the olfactory sense of insects is located in the antennæ and finds that in *Hymenoptera* the organs of olfaction have their seat in certain definite regions, such as the bases of the wings, the bases of the legs, the sting of the worker and queen honey bee, and the mouth parts, where aggregations of "olfactory pores" occur. Evidence is also presented in favor of the view that possibly these olfactory pores are the true olfactory organs in all insects. No evidence is found of any organs of olfaction on the antennæ.

PAUL S. WELCH.

#### NOTES ON MICROSCOPIC TECHNIQUE.

*Euparal.*—Euparal is a mounting medium composed of a mixture of camsal, sandarac, eucalpytol and paraldehyde, having a refractive index of 1.483. It is put up in two forms, the colorless and the green, the latter containing a copper salt which intensifies hæma-